

Wayne Allard

U . S . S E N A T O R • C O L O R A D O

For Release:
July 12, 2005

Contact: Angela de Rocha
(202) 224-5944
Stephen Myers
(202) 224-6207

SENATOR ALLARD, PARK SERVICE AGREE ON EQUITABLE SOLUTION TO BETTY DICK'S DILEMMA *Park Service to offer lease allowing Mrs. Dick to stay at fair market value*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-Colorado), following several discussions with National Park Service Director Fran Mainella, announced on Tuesday that the National Park Service has agreed to offer a solution that would allow Betty Dick to continue to live in a home on Rocky Mountain National Park property at fair market value.

“Betty Dick has been a good neighbor to the park over the last 25 years, and I think this a fair solution to her, the Park Service and the taxpayer,” said Senator Allard.

“The Park Service has agreed to offer a two-year, fair market value lease to Mrs. Dick that will allow her to keep living on the property in Rocky Mountain National Park,” Senator Allard said. “This is a common-sense solution, and avoids setting a precedent for hundreds of similar cases around the country.”

Additionally, Senator Allard has agreed to take the lead on developing legislation to resolve more than 290 similar problems in 35 parks across the country.

“Betty Dick’s situation is not unique, and it’s clear that we need to address the lease inholding situations in national parks across the country comprehensively, rather than piece by piece,” said Senator Allard. “I look forward to working with the Park Service, the Department of Interior and with my colleagues to get a fair, nationwide inholdings solution.”

Mrs. Dick has spent the last 25 summers in a home once owned by her late husband, Fred Dick, and his first wife Marilyn. In a divorce agreement, Fred Dick’s first wife received sole ownership of the residence in question. He was given the right of first refusal should his first wife decide to sell the property.

The property was eventually sold to the United States for \$200,000 and turned over to the National Park Service, but Fred Dick was not given the opportunity to exercise his right of first refusal to purchase the property. He then filed a lawsuit, and in a legal settlement between Mr. Dick and the government, the Park Service retained ownership of the property, and Fred and Betty Dick paid \$7,500 to be able to use the residence and 23 acres of public land in Rocky Mountain National Park for 25 years.

###